

Message Text

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16

ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 IO-11 OMB-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 AID-05 EB-07 TRSE-00 ARA-06 AF-06 /092 W

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R 140625Z JAN 76

FM AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4326

INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

AMEMBASSY JAKARTA

AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR

AMEMBASSY MANILA

CINCPAC

C O N F I D E N T I A L SINGAPORE 190

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: ASEAN

SUBJECT: MARCOS-LEE KUAN YEW MEETING

1. I CALLED ON MY PHILIPPINE COLLEAGUE AMBASSADOR DELPHIN GARCIA JANUARY 13 TO ASK HIM FOR WHAT INFORMATION HE COULD GIVE ME CONCERNING SUBJECT MATTER TO BE DISCUSSED BY PRESIDENT MARCOS AND PM LEE KUAN YEW DURING MARCOS' VISIT HERE JANUARY 27-28. I FOUND GARCIA ENGROSSED IN MAKING PREPARATIONS, AND HE ASSUMED THAT VISIT WOULD TAKE PLACE REGARDLESS OF DEVELOPMENTS IN OTHER ASEAN COUNTRIES.

2. GARCIA WAS QUITE FORTHCOMING ON GENERAL CONTENT OF MARCOS-LEE KUAN YEW TALKS, SAYING THAT MAIN ISSUE FOR DISCUSSION WAS HOW TO PRODUCE "CONCRETE RESULTS" FROM THE ASEAN SUMMIT, I.E. REACHING AGREEMENT AMONG ASEAN HEADS ON SOME COURSE OF ACTION WHICH COULD
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THEN BE PASSED ON FOR IMPLEMENTATION IN EACH COUNTRY

IN FORM OF A DIRECTIVE. GARCIA INDICATED THAT BOTH MARCOS AND LEE WANTED TO AVOID SITUATION IN WHICH SUMMIT WOULD SIMPLY ENDORSE RESOLUTIONS WORKED OUT PREVIOUSLY AT SENIOR OFFICERS' AND FOREIGN MINISTER' MEETINGS, AND DESIRED INSTEAD A MORE DYNAMIC OUTCOME.

3. GARCIA FURTHER INDICATED THAT HOPED-FOR CONCRETE RESULTS WOULD BE IN ECONOMIC MATTERS. HE NOTED THAT PHILIPPINE AND SINGAPORE POSITIONS WERE VERY CLOSE IN THIS REGARD, AND THAT PHILIPPINE GOVERNMENT, LIKE GOS, WAS CRITICAL OF INDONESIAN PROTECTIONIST POLICY FOR STANDING IN WAY OF ASEAN FREE TRADE ZONE. GARCIA MAINTAINED THAT WITHOUT A FREE TRADE ZONE OR SOME OTHER FORM OF CLOSER ECONOMIC INTEGRATION, THE ASEAN STATES WOULD BE AT A DISADVANTAGE IN DEALING WITH MAJOR ECONOMIC POWERS AND GROUPINGS ELSEWHERE SUCH AS US, JAPAN, EC, AND SOUTH AMERICAN AND AFRICAN ECONOMIC UNIONS. WITH CLOSER ASEAN INTEGRATION INTO A BODY OF OVER 200 MILLION PEOPLE AND RICH NATURAL RESOURCES, HOWEVER, THE ORGANIZATION COULD MAKE ITS WEIGHT FELT.

4. GARCIA WAS UNABLE TO TELL ME JUST WHAT SPECIFICS SINGAPORE AND THE PHILIPPINES HAD IN MIND REGARDING ECONOMIC OUTCOME OF ASEAN SUMMIT, AND SAID THAT GOP NEGOTIATING POSITION WOULD BE BROUGHT BY PHILIPPINE DELEGATION. HE ADDED THAT POLITICAL MATTERS WOULD ALSO BE DISCUSSED BY MARCOS AND LEE, INCLUDING REVIEW OF DEVELOPMENTS IN SOUTHEAST ASIA SINCE THE FALL OF VIET-NAM.

5. APROPOS OF PREPARATIONS FOR MARCOS VISIT, GARCIA NOTED THAT GOS WAS BEING VERY FORTHCOMING ON HOUSING AND ALL OTHER ARRANGEMENTS FOR THE LARGE PHILIPPINE DELEGATION. HE HAD NO APPREHENSION OVER PRESIDENT MARCOS' REACTIONS TO THESE ARRANGEMENTS SINCE MARCOS WAS EASY TO PLEASE, BUT WAS RATHER WORRIED ABOUT MADAME MARCOS WHO WAS "VERY PARTICULAR".
HOLDRIDGE

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